

BOX PCT  
 IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE  
 OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
 UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY--CHAPTER II

# 3A

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A**  
**PRIOR TO ACTION**

APPLICANT(S): Jürgen NIESSEN et al  
 ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: P01,0182  
 INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO: PCT/EP99/09497  
 INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: 04 DECEMBER 1999  
 INVENTION: METHOD OF MONITORING FOR AVAILABILITY OF A  
 SYSTEM FUNCTION IN A COMPUTER SYSTEM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
 Washington D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants herewith amend the above-referenced PCT application, and  
 request entry of the Amendment prior to examination on the United States  
 Examination Phase.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

On page 6:

replace line 1 with --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--;

Please replace original claims 1-8 with the following rewritten claims 1-8,  
 referring to the mark-ups in Appendix A.

1. (Amended) A method of monitoring for availability of a system function in a  
 computer system, comprising the steps of:

storing, in a database of said computer system, for a system function  
 monitored for availability, respective information which describes conditions under  
 which said availability of a system function are to be assessed as existing or no  
 longer existing; and

utilizing said information, when a change in a state of a component of said  
 computer system has taken place or is intended to take place, to assess whether  
 said change that has taken place results, or said change that is intended to take  
 place would result, in a change in terms of the availability of said system function.

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